



# COLORADO

## Resiliency Office

Department of Local Affairs

## Microgrids for Community Resilience Webinar

During the Microgrids for Community Resilience (MCR) Webinar held on February 14, 2023, the Colorado Resiliency Office provided an overview of microgrids and the [MCR planning grants](#) that are currently open through March 31, 2023. We also shared the opportunity for free technical assistance, including a microgrids modeling tool, provided by consultants to the U.S. Department of Energy. To dig deeper, see the:

- [MCR Webinar Slide Deck](#)
- [MCR Webinar Recording](#)

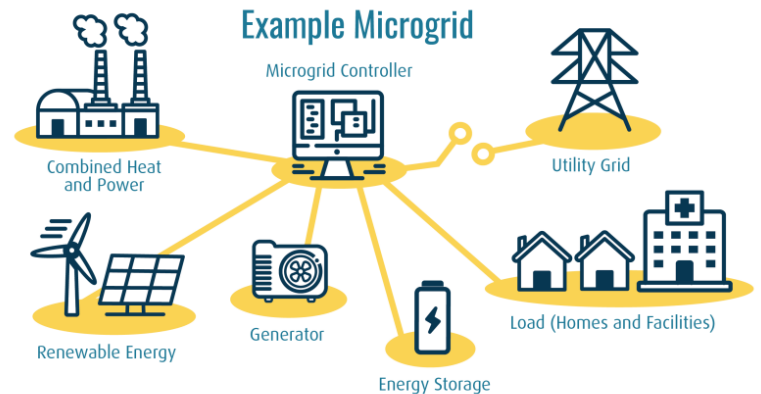


Photo Credit: [NASEO](#)

### What is a Microgrid?

The Department of Energy [defines a microgrid](#) as “a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly identified electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid.”

In Colorado, some of the existing microgrids include Red Feather Lakes (Poudre Valley REA), a Pitkin County Microgrid that is still under development (further highlighted in a previous [Climate Webinar: Energy Resiliency through Microgrids](#)), and a San Miguel Power Association Microgrid (further highlighted in a previous [Climate Webinar: San Miguel County Clean Energy Projects](#)).

### Funding for Microgrids:

Two levels of grantmaking are being made available through the [MCR Grant Program](#) - planning grants and construction/implementation grants (see the table on the following page).

Additionally, the [Local Community Funding Guide](#) lists additional federal and State funding that can either be “stacked” with MCR funding, or serve different purposes. Sorting by the “Energy, Water, & Environment” category will give a more specific subset of funding opportunities.

	<b>MCR Planning Grants</b>	<b>MCR Construction/ Implementation Grants</b>
<b>Application Period</b>	Feb 6 - March 31, 2023	Expected mid-2023
<b>Max Award</b>	\$36,000	\$1,005,000
<b>Match Requirement</b>	25% - cash match required	33% - in-kind contributions eligible
<b>Appropriated for Year 1</b>	\$399,000	\$1,295,261
<b>Purpose</b>	Grants can apply for funds for engineering, planning, pro forma, or feasibility/scoping studies to develop/explore new microgrid facilities.	Grants can apply for funds to develop new microgrid facilities, including shovel-ready projects. Priority will be given to projects leveraging pre-existing assets

For questions on the MCR Program, reach out to:

**Julia Masters**

Microgrids for Community Resilience Program Manager

Email: [julia.masters@state.co.us](mailto:julia.masters@state.co.us)

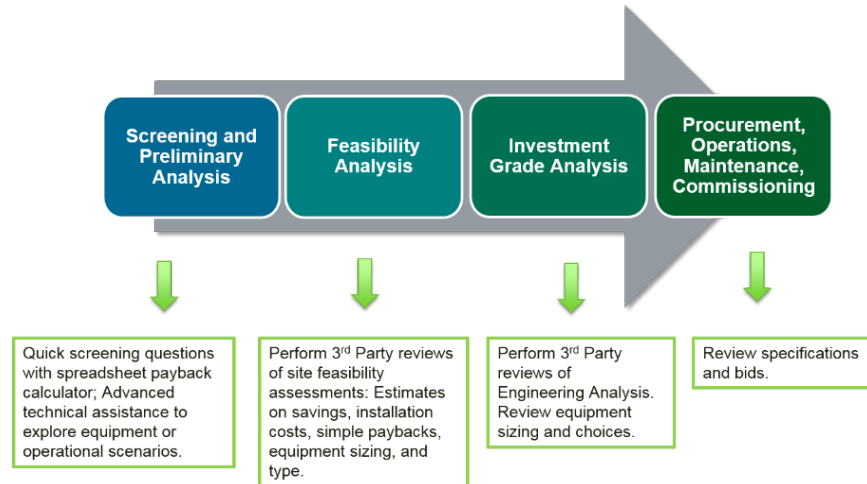
Phone: 303-349-1616

## Free Technical Assistance for Microgrids Planning

As an early step in microgrids planning, utilities (or interested community groups who are engaging in this process for other grant opportunities) may reach out to the Combined Heat and Power (CHP)<sup>1</sup> Technical Assistance Program (TAP) for an initial “Screening and Preliminary Analysis” (see flowchart below) that provides information such as equipment options, operational scenarios, and payback. Thereafter, the CHP TAP can provide guidance and support through Feasibility Analysis, Investment Grade Analysis, and Procurement as utilities work with consultants and contractors in designing and building out a microgrid system.

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: The CHP TAP Program initially only provided technical assistance for CHP projects, but their purview was expanded to various technologies across microgrid-related projects long ago.



Additional support provided by CHP TAP program includes:

- **End User Engagement:** Partner with strategic End Users to advance technical solutions using CHP as a cost effective and resilient way to ensure American competitiveness, utilize local fuels and enhance energy security. CHP TAPs offer fact-based, non-biased engineering support to manufacturing, commercial, institutional and federal facilities and campuses.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage with strategic Stakeholders, including regulators, utilities, and policy makers, to identify and reduce the barriers to using CHP to advance regional efficiency, promote energy independence and enhance the nation's resilient grid. CHP TAPs provide fact-based, non-biased education to advance sound CHP programs and policies.
- **Technical Services:** As leading experts in CHP (as well as microgrids, heat to power, and district energy) the CHP TAPs work with sites to screen for CHP opportunities as well as provide advanced services to maximize the economic impact and reduce the risk of CHP from initial CHP screening to installation.

To get started, reach out directly to the CHP TAP contacts for support:

<p><b>Carlos Gamarra, PhD, PE</b>          Director, Southcentral CHP TAP  <a href="mailto:cgamarra@harcresearch.org">cgamarra@harcresearch.org</a></p>	<p><b>Pam Gallagher</b>          Assistant Director Upper-West and Southcentral CHP TAPs  <a href="mailto:pgallagher@harcresearch.org">pgallagher@harcresearch.org</a></p>
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